

What is claimed is:

1. A piston and cylinder assembly comprising:  
a cylinder defining a central bore and having an open rear end;  
a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity;  
a retainer positioned in the concavity;  
a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer; and  
a clip positioned in the concavity and fixedly engaging the retainer to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity.
2. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 1 wherein:  
aligned annular grooves are defined in the exterior of the retainer and the interior of the concavity; and  
the clip is received in the aligned grooves.
3. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 2 wherein the clip has a "C" configuration and is formed of a spring steel.
4. A piston and cylinder assembly comprising a cylinder defining a central bore and having an open rear end, a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity, a retainer positioned in the concavity, and a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer, characterized in that:  
the retainer defines a generally spherical socket;  
the head end of the pushrod has a generally spherical configuration and is swively received in the retainer socket; and

the assembly further includes a clip positioned in the concavity and fixedly engaging the retainer to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity.

5. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 4 wherein the retainer is constituted by two retainer halves which coact to define the generally spherical socket.

6. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 5 wherein: each retainer half includes a rearward semicircular rim portion positioned in the rear end of the bore, a forward socket portion, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced axially extending ribs extending between the rearward rim portion and the forward socket portion and configured to fit flush in the concavity; and

the clip is positioned in an annular groove in the interior of the concavity and an aligned annular groove in the retainer defined by a series of circumferentially spaced notches in the respective circumferentially spaced ribs.

7. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 1 wherein: the concavity includes a forward portion having an arcuate cross-sectional configuration; and

the retainer includes a forward portion having an arcuate cross-sectional configuration conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of the forward concavity portion.

8. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 7 wherein the concavity includes a rearward frusto conical portion blending with the arcuate forward portion to define a rearwardly opening bowl shaped configuration.

9. A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 1 wherein the concavity and the retainer have conforming, generally arcuate cross-sectional profiles whereby the retainer fits flush within the concavity.